

What's So Special About Special Handling Perfins?

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For years I haven't added any new material to my small group of U.S. Special Handling perfins. I wonder why? Perhaps they are so scarce that collectors hoard them and swap only for like items? Or perhaps not many companies perfined these stamps?

Perfin checklists have been made for many U.S. stamps: airmail, 1902, Kans/Nebr, parcel post, and others. However, I don't recall seeing a checklist for Special Handling perfins (Scott QE1-4). They are those rather plain, green, horizontal stamps intended to give parcels the same care as first class mail.

Scott's Specialized Catalog lists more varieties of these issues than the regular catalog, so there are ways, even with this small group, to increase your perfin collections. There are wet and dry printings of the 10¢, 15¢, and 20¢ issues and color variations of

the 25¢ issue. In addition, there are certain connected letters in "UNITED STATES POSTAGE" on the 25¢ value that catalog four to eight times those of the normal types. I am not expert enough to judge the wet and dry differences, and it is not easy to distinguish the color variations because of aging and cancellations. The connected letters are easy to see with a good magnifier.

Below is a listing of the known types, as best I can determine, including denominations, prepers, varieties, and postmarks. For those of you who collect this specialty, I should appreciate additions to this list to give me some idea of what really exists. If your list amount to hundreds (or thousands) on several pages, I'll be happy to reimburse!

To answer the title question: scarcity(?) and variety(!).

Perfins found in U.S. Special Handling stamps					
Pattern	US Cat #	Denom of stamp	D P V ¹	Postmark Type	City/Town
ABL	A46(?) Not exact	10¢		Oval	
ABL	A46A	15¢		Oval	
AC/CO	A63	25¢	D	Oval	
AE/Co	A99	15¢	P (Chicago)		
AE/Co	A99	25¢			
AEL/Co	A102.1	25¢	D		
ATT	A272	25¢	D	Oval	New York
AWP	A281	25¢			
AY/ER	A287	10¢ 15¢ 20¢		Oval (15)	Philadelphia
[A&]G	A292	10¢		Oval	
BFG/Co	B120	25¢	D V	Oval	Akron
B&S	B289	20¢			
CB	C32	20¢			(South) Manchester
[CC]	C63	15¢		CDS	Chicago
[CC]	C63	25¢		Oval	Chicago
CEC	C109	15¢			Chicago
CEC	C109	25¢	D		
[CP]	C262	10¢ 15¢		Mint	
CSP	C321	25¢	D	Oval	Toledo
CT/C	C340	15¢			

Perfins found in U.S. Special Handling stamps (cont.)					
CUD/AHY	C356.1	15¢			
DH/NYC	D49	10¢			
DM/CO	D68	15¢			Framingham
DM/CO	D68	25¢	D	Oval	
D(I)	D154	15¢			
FIC	F86	25¢		Oval	
FOX	F148	25¢	D		
FP/L	F153	25¢	D P (New York)		
GE	G72-11	10¢			
GE	G72-29	25¢	D		
(G)M(C)	G116	25¢			Detroit
H/oo/D	H146	20¢			Boston
HSB	H170	15¢		Oval	
HS/&CO	H184	25¢	D		
[IHC]	I43.7-23	10¢		CDS	Boston
I-P	I69	25¢	D V		
ISC(o)	I91.1	25¢	D V	Oval	Meriden
JBE	J8	25¢	P (Philadelphia)		
J&F	J177	25¢	P (Cleveland) V		
LOW	L130.1	25¢	D		
L(&)T	L190.5	25¢		CDS	Dayton
ML(C)	M154	25¢	D P (Cleveland)	Oval	Wall St. Sta.
NCR	N53	25¢	D	CDS	
NL	N104.1	25¢	D		
PD	P55	10¢			
PD/Co	P56	25¢	D P (Chicago)		
P.D/Co.	P56-17	25¢			
SAI	S25	25¢			
SSW	S272.9	25¢	D V	Oval	Staten Island
U/OF/M	U55.5	10¢			
US/MC	U82.1	25¢		CDS	
U•S/MC	U82.4	20¢		Oval	Philadelphia
WNV	W142	25¢		CDS	

1- D = Dark green variety; P = Preper; V = Variety- Second 'T' and 'A' of 'STATES' joined at top